

IAF

CONNECTIONS

The Latest News from the Inter-American Foundation

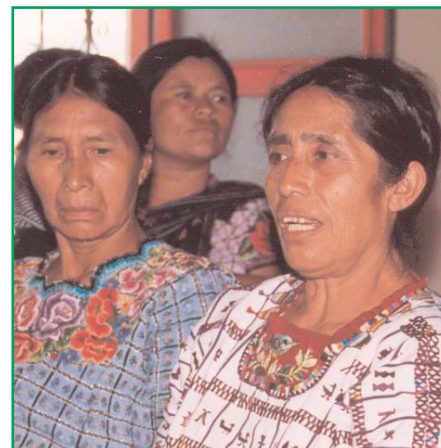
IN THE NEWS

Guatemalan Women Share Successes

Stunning Mayan dresses and crisp PowerPoint presentations framed the November 22 *Encuentro Femenino* hosted by grantee Asociación Femenina para el Desarrollo de Sacatepéquez (AFEDES) in Santiago Sacatepéquez, where some 70 women, representing various IAF grantees, discussed illiteracy, pollution, health care, microcredit and gender equality.

Rxiin Tnamet, an NGO promoting preventative measures associated with women's health, was the first grantee represented on the agenda, and its greatest success—reducing the high rate of maternal mortality in the Lake Atitlán area to zero—incited a passionate ovation. Rxiin leader Magdalena Chavajay was followed by AFEDES' Angelina Aspuac, Glenda Sis from Plan de Acción Forestal Maya (IIDEMAYA), Julia Ixcoy of Consejo de Mujeres Mayas, Dolores Chaclán of Coordinadora de Asociaciones de Desarrollo Integral del Suroccidente de Guatemala (CADIS-OGUA) and Josefa Moncada from ADEMISS, an IAF-supported environmental NGO in El Salvador.

The speakers documented their organizations' accomplishments with impressive statistics and then engaged the audience in a lively colloquy on the necessity to involve more women in resolving the problems flowing from poverty. "Development is for everyone," Moncada reminded the audience. "Development without women is unthinkable." The seminar closed with her recommendation to continue the discussion at a meeting open to participants from all of Central America.



Women from Rxiin Tnamet. Photo: Rebecca Janes

Combining Productivity and Environmental Protection



Llopango Lake in El Salvador. Photo: ADEMISS

IAF grantee Agencia de Desarrollo Local para los Municipios de Llopango, Soyapango and San Martín (ADEMISS) is combating problems of poverty and pollution in a densely populated area surrounding Llopango Lake in El Salvador. Pollution is a real problem, causing intestinal diseases and high infant mortality rates. People cannot profitably fish, comfortably swim, or invite tourists to visit, which limits income generation in the area.

ADEMISS, a regional development agency, received an IAF grant in 2000. It provides environmental education to address conservation and ecological issues.

Now thanks to a recent agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture, ADEMISS will help local residents farm fish in Llopango Lake. The Center to Develop Fish and Agriculture (CENDEPESCA), an office within the Ministry of Agriculture, agreed to cooperate in this almost \$300,000 grant to farm fish in floating cages each with room for more than 10,000 fish. More than 100 families should see income increases as a result.

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Grantee awards

Argentina

IAF grantee Warmi Sayajsunqo Association recently received the Dubai International Award for Best Practices, a prize sponsored by the United Nations Human Settlements Program and the municipality of Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The grantee was recognized for its work improving the environment around Abra Pampa in Jujuy, one of Argentina's poorest provinces.



Rosario Quispe.
Photo: Patrick Breslin

On October 29, Warmi's charismatic leader was profiled in *Rosario Quispe, una mujer perseverante*, a documentary broadcast on Argentina's Canal 7 series *Visionario. Página Doce*, a Buenos Aires daily, carried a substantial article on Quispe that day. Quispe has worked since 1986 among the indigenous Coya people in the Puna, the highlands of Argentina's Jujuy province, and founded Warmi in 1995 with 10 other women. Two years later, the organization received the Women's World Summit Foundation's Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life. The distinction attracted the focus and funding of the international development community, enabling Warmi to expand the reach of its programs in micro-credit and other activities benefiting indigenous communities.

For more information on Warmi's Dubai International Award, log onto www.bestpractices.org, go to the database and click on the Indigenous Local Development Program, Abra Pampa, Argentina.

Brazil

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva appointed Sérgio Haddad, president of a former IAF grantee, Associação Brasileira de Organizações Não Governamentais (Abong), to serve on Brazil's new Economic and Social Development Council (CDES). Part of the Ministry of Urban Economic and Social Development, CDES seeks concrete policy solutions through discussions with representatives from government, business, labor and civil society. Also, Minister Tarso Genro appointed Dr. Jurema Werneck, director of IAF grantee Criola, as an alternate civil society representative to CDES.

In December, Oded Grajew, president of a IAF grantee, Instituto Ethos, was recognized for his work promoting social responsibility. The Pensamento Nacional das Bases Empresariais, a national business group that advocates for economic development, representative democracy and social justice, designated Grajew Prominent Citizen. Additionally, Ex-President Fernando Henrique Cardoso awarded Grajew the Brazilian Government's Human Rights Award, recognizing individuals and institutions for human rights work benefiting all of Brazilian society.

Guatemala

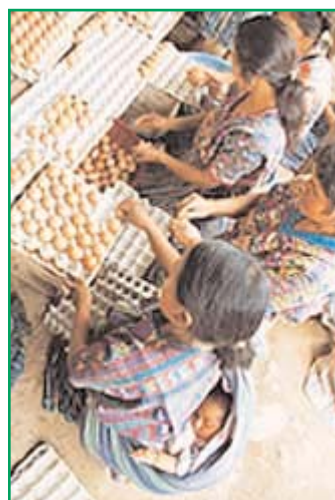
Asociación de Mujeres Indígenas para el Desarrollo Integral (AMIDI), a rural Guatemalan grassroots group supported by IAF grantee Coordinadora Kaqchikel de Desarrollo Integral (Cokadi), was recognized for its creativity in preparing meals with eggs and use of organic production methods to raise hens. Slow Food, an international movement based in Turin, Italy, with more than 60,000 members, selected AMIDI from 300 candidates worldwide. Slow Food, named for its philosophy on food, promotes respect for the environment and biodiversity of crops "from the soil to the pot and the table." For more information on Slow Food, log onto www.slow-food.com.

AMIDI, a group of 40 women, started two years ago with its first loan of 500 chicks and now has more than 2,000. Ana Maria Chali, who accepted the award for AMIDI, told *Prensa Libre*, a Guatemalan daily, "We didn't know how to take care of the chickens, and had no idea how to collect or sell eggs. But with the help of Cokadi we learned."

The IAF has funded Cokadi since 1999 in its efforts to provide essential protein in the diets of rural Guatemalans. Cokadi provides in-kind loans, including chickens, to start-up enterprises, helping more than 750 families.



Cokadi raising chickens.
Photo: Prensa Libre



Cokadi selecting eggs.
Photo: Prensa Libre

El Salvador

The International Labor Organization (ILO) selected ABA, an IAF-funded recycling center in San Salvador, as winner of two consecutive regional competitions in 2002. At "Promoting Business Services with Equity," an ILO conference in Panama, ABA won a \$1,500 prize, qualifying to compete in a second conference in Peru. At the hemispheric conference, "Best Practices with Gender and Services for Small Business," ABA was one of four organizations awarded \$10,500 and ILO training in Italy worth \$4,500.

Venezuela

Deborah Bigio of Fundación para la Defensa de la Naturaleza (FUDENA) and Enrique Ochoa Antich of Fundación La Salle de Ciencias Naturales (FLASA) were named among the top 100 leaders in Venezuela by *Gerente.com*, a Venezuelan magazine. FUDENA, an environmental training and micro-entrepreneurial project, is working with mollusk extractors to enhance the income and conserve natural resources in the Cuare Reserve. FLASA, a health and education project, is working with indigenous Warao populations in nine communities in the Orinoco River delta. For a complete list of names, log on www.gerente.com click on sociedad civil.

Globalization from below

The January edition of *Latin American Trade*, a business magazine published in Spanish, English and Portuguese, highlighted former IAF grantees El Ceibo and Camelids Production Co. (COPROCA) in Bolivia for their ingenuity in finding international markets.

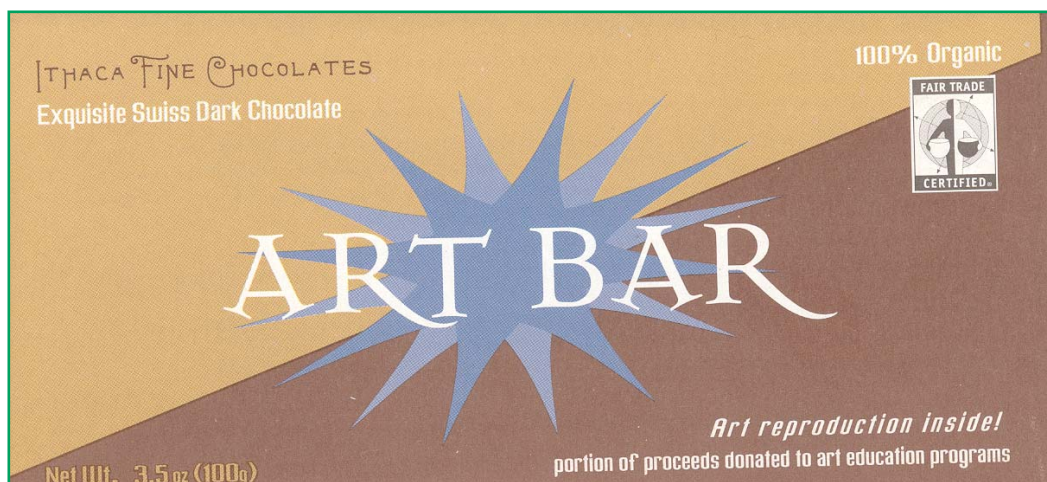
El Ceibo sold more than \$1.5 million in organic cocoa and chocolate to Europe, Japan and the U.S. last year. The indigenous-owned and operated enterprise received various IAF grants from 1980-1994. Ithaca Fine Chocolates, which uses coca beans from El Ceibo, is the first company in the U.S. to be fair trade certified.

COPROCA, made up of 1,500 indigenous families, exported \$1.5 million worth of alpaca fibers to China last year. It received more than \$100,000 from the IAF in 1998 toward an education program and the purchase of industrial spinning machinery to convert altiplano alpaca fiber into yarn.

The *Latin American Trade* article emphasizes that while globalization is flooding national markets with foreign goods, globally "disadvantaged groups" can organize to export their products and improve their lives. For the full article, log onto www.latintrade.com/newsite/news/magazine.cfm

The Inter-American Foundation (IAF) is an independent agency of the United States government that provides grants to non-governmental and community-based organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean for innovative, sustainable and participatory self-help programs. The IAF primarily funds partnerships among grassroots and nonprofit organizations, businesses and local governments, directed at improving the quality of life of poor people and strengthening participation, accountability and democratic practices. To contribute to a better understanding of the development process, the IAF also shares its experiences and the lessons it has learned.

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Conferences

Corporate Foundations Network Coordinating Committee meeting, Mexico City, January 30- February 1

The 11-member coordinating committee met to draft policies for the recently established Inter-American Network of Corporate Foundations and Actions for Grassroots Development. Founded last year, the network is working with corporate foundations to unify forces, distribute funds and reach more grassroots organizations.

Latin-American Diaspora in the U.S. and Canada, Puebla, Mexico, January 23-25

More than 100 speakers, development professionals and experts on migration and immigrant issues from Latin America, the U.S. and Canada converged for a conference on the Latin American diaspora, sponsored by the IAF, Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank, U.S. Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Pan-American Development Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation and the state government of Puebla. Topics ranged from how to deliver health care to a migrating population to new identification cards for Mexicans living in the U.S. Representatives of U.S.-based hometown associations, current IAF grantees and proponent grantees also attended.

IAF President David Valenzuela opened the meeting with a history of IAF grants to projects assisted by migrants and a description of IAF's current support for "transnational" initiatives. He also moderated a panel on multiculturalism and globalization. The conference was organized by IAF grantee Fundación para la Productividad en el Campo (APOYO).

Workshops and Meetings

David Valenzuela attended the preparatory planning meeting held January 15-16 in Arequipa, Peru, for the First Latin American Summit on Local and Regional Development and Decentralization. This three-day conference, scheduled for June 9-12, 2003, will address the politics of decentralization in Latin America; European decentralization policy; state and local government structures; citizen participation and social accountability methods; social and economic partnerships; and the current decentralization process in Peru.

The conference participants will submit their views on decentralization policy for dissemination at the annual Mayors' Conference in Miami, Florida and at the next meeting of the High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government and Citizen Participation (RIAD) scheduled this year for Mexico. For more information log onto: www.ceder.org.pe.

IAF representative for Brazil and Colombia Judith Morrison, auditor Madeline Lopez and evaluations specialist Miguel Cuevas, spoke to 12 new grantees in Rio Janeiro, Brazil, November 4-5.

The IAF board of directors met in El Salvador, December 1-4. The board members visited IAF grantees COPADEO, a credit fund helping with an economic development project in Paraiso de Osorio, a municipality severely damaged by the 2001 earthquake, REDES Mobile Market project in Mejicanos, and the ABA recycling project in metropolitan San Salvador.

Presentations

On October 18, Mitch Teplitsky, a New York-based filmmaker, and Nérida Silva, an immigrant in New York City, showed IAF staff their film on Silva's return to her home village in Ancash, a department in the Peruvian highlands, where she sponsored the annual feast. This event was an effort by the IAF to learn more about connections between migrants and their native communities within the region.

Danny Martinez, Rosana Morales, Blanca Romero and Blanca Cruz discussed the work of Comunidades Unidas Salvadoreñas (CUS), a hometown association in the Washington D.C. area, on October 17. In response to the 2001 earthquakes, CUS raised money, organized volunteers and secured donated materials to construct more than 200 permanent homes in El Salvador. The CUS experience is a great example of how groups at the U.S. end of the "transnational" highway, can contribute skills, knowledge, ideas, and time as well as money to help their home communities.

Tom Kam of the Washington Area Partnership for Immigrants, a program of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, spoke to the IAF in January. Established to support immigrants obtaining U.S. citizenship, the Partnership raises awareness, builds organizational capacity and lobbies for immigration rights. Since 1998, it has granted more than \$1.2 million to organizations serving immigrants. The IAF and the Partnership discussed linking immigrant organizations in the U.S. with organizations in their home communities.

Manuel Pastor, a Peruvian banker, gave a PowerPoint presentation in January on a new program that allows the working poor to construct their own homes and use the equity to build a pension fund for their later years. The plan has worked in both developed and developing countries and can be supported with remittances. For more details contact Manuel by emailing mapast_cor@hotmail.com.

Michael Brotncher, TransFair USA development director, met with IAF staff in February. TransFair USA, a non-profit certification organization, works in the U.S. to achieve fair prices for producers in poor countries. Operating since 1998, the organization has worked with over 100 companies in the U.S., including Equal Exchange, Starbucks and Granum, Inc. (the first company to offer Fair Trade certified tea.) Currently, TransFair offers fair trade certified coffee, tea and cocoa and is considering additional products, such as bananas.

IAF Publications



The publication *Economic Development in Latin American Communities of African Descent*, compiled by IAF representative Judith Morrison, will be reprinted by the Inter-American Development Bank. The World Bank also posted the English version of the publication on their Web site (www.worldbank.org). Spanish and Portuguese versions are also available on the IAF's Web site.

The IAF publications now available are:

* Volume 23, Number 1 of *Grassroots Development* in English and Spanish. The Portuguese version will soon be available on the Web.

For descriptions go to www.iaf.gov, click on publications, then index. IAF publications can be ordered free by e-mailing your name and postal address to publications@iaf.gov. Supplies are limited; orders will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis.

Kevin Healy, IAF representative for Panama and Honduras, published "Building Networks of Social Capital for Grassroots Development among Indigenous Communities in Bolivia and Mexico" in *Social Capital and Economic Development, Well-Being in Developing Countries* edited by Jonathan Isham, Thomas Kelly, and Sunder Ramaswamy (Edward Elgera: 2002).



Cooperative Microcredit Businesses

Since Maria Marta Padilla founded FINCA in Costa Rica (Fundación Integral Campesina) in 1984, she has acquired partner operations in Venezuela, Ecuador and in other countries in Central America.

This village-banking project, originally funded with an IAF grant in 1985, credits its success to a unique micro-credit methodology. *Bancomunales*, cooperative banks, are organized as businesses. Shareholders, who contribute as little as two or three dollars to a general fund, collectively set the amount, interest rate, collateral and guarantees for each loan and select the recipients.

Shareholder control means capital accruing from interest charged stays local, preventing external NGO's or lenders from taking profits or setting policies. FINCA provides technical assistance and networks of local experts. Padilla visited the Foundation in November.

Media Round up

The *San Diego Union-Tribune* reported the contributions of former IAF president Deborah Szekely to a new museum on immigrants in "Proposed immigrant museum gets grant" November 15.

Celeo Alvarez Casildo, president of Organización de Desarrollo Etnico Comunitario (ODECO) in Honduras, and Dr. Jurema Wernek, executive director of Criola in Brazil, were highlighted in the National Council of La Raza fall newsletter for their talks on Afro-Latino issues at La Raza's 2002 conference.

Viva Rio, an IAF grantee working to provide technical assistance to women cooperatives in the Brazilian favelas, redesigned its Web site in October. Log onto www.vivario.org.br.

Folha de São Paulo, a Brazilian daily, selected www.ethos.org.br as one of Brazil's 1000 best Web sites. Instituto Ethos de Responsabilidade Social is an IAF grantee working to support corporate social responsibility.

A major Argentine daily, *La Nación*, profiled Fundación Leer's efforts to distribute 500,000 books to school children

Work on Race in the Americas

The IAF, a member of the Inter-Agency Consultation on Race in Latin America (IAC), cosponsored a presentation by anthropologist Sheila Walker on the contributions of Afro-Latinos to Hispanic culture. The talk, "Rediscovering Our Identity: The Contributions of Afro-Descendants in Latin America," organized by the National Council of La Raza, took place last October during National Hispanic Heritage Month. The IAF, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Inter-American Dialogue and the World Bank founded the IAC to raise international awareness of Afro-Latinos who represent 30 percent of Latin America's population, or more than 160 million people.

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Staff Activities

In November, Kevin Healy, IAF representative for Panama and Honduras, gave a slide presentation at Columbia University's Latin American Institute in New York and at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore on his book *Llamas, Weavings, and Organic Chocolate: Multicultural Grassroots Development in the Andes and Amazon of Bolivia* (Notre Dame Press: 2001). Healy also commented on recent trends in Bolivia at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., in January.

In November, Kaye Pyle, IAF representative for El Salvador, participated in the 15th anniversary celebration of the Comité de Reconstrucción y Desarrollo Económico Social de Comunidades de Suchitoto (CRC), a new grantee working with agricultural products. Pyle also attended the opening ceremony for new IAF grantee, Fundación Promotora de Productores y Empresarios Salvadoreños, an organization that works with small businesses to develop nontraditional agricultural practices.

Carolyn Karr, IAF senior vice president, and Audra Jones, IAF representative for Argentina and Venezuela, spoke at a conference hosted by Claremont Graduate School. At this two-day event in September, Karr talked on risk management and Jones on the social outcomes of a venture capital in Mexico. Attending the event were 25 investors interested in Mexican markets.

At the GrantMakers without Borders annual conference, Audra Jones, IAF representative for Argentina and Venezuela, moderated

the panel "Micro Credit as a Development Tool: Does it Work?" Jones joined IAF Haitian grantee SEED, EcoLogic, a Guatemalan NGO, and IDEX, a grantmaking organization from San Francisco. For more information, log onto www.internationaldonors.org/.

Walter Price, IAF's corporate outreach director, attended the Cornerstone Conference hosted by the Kenan Institute at the University of North Carolina Business School, November 14-15. Price spoke on "Corporate Leadership in the Community" at the closing lunch.

Judy Morrison, IAF representative for Brazil, spoke to the Civil Society Task force on Afro-Latin community development in December. Hosted by Esquel Group Foundation and the Inter-American Dialogue, the discussion focused on fighting racial inequalities in Brazil.

Jim Adriance, IAF representative for Guatemala, discussed poverty in Latin America in December on Voice of America's TV program *Conversemos esta noche*, Let's Talk Tonight.

Ramón Daubón, vice-president of programs, represented the Foundation as a panelist in *Hablemos con Washington*, Let's speak with Washington, a call-in talk show produced by the Voice of America. He spoke on volunteering and foreign aid. The program, transmitted to VOA affiliates in Latin America, is also available on the Web. Log onto www.voa.gov. Ramón also held a workshop on democracy and participation, during the world's second largest book fair in Guadalajara, Mexico in December.

New Faces

Staff

Jocelyn Nieva began work on December 30 as assistant general counsel. In addition to her J.D., she also has an M.A. in Latin American studies from the University of Texas at Austin.

Ramón Daubón, IAF's advisor to the president, was named acting vice president for programs.

Where they are now

Javier Morales, a former IAF fellow, is currently vice-minister of commerce in Nicaragua. Morales received his doctorate from Stanford University, where he studied at the Food Research Institute.

Thais Corral, a former IAF fellow and now founder of Communication, Education and Information on Gender (CEMINA), an NGO using radio to educate and empower women in Brazil, spoke to the World Bank's Development Gateway on October 9. For more information on Corral's work, log onto: www.cemina.org.br or www.radiofalamulher.com.

If you are a former IAF fellow, we want to hear from you. Please email us at fellows@iaf.gov.